

In the Claims

26. (Currently amended) Recognition unit for recognizing synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, said recognition unit comprising:

a reception module and a recording module, for receiving and recording in a storage space, recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme ~~programme~~),

a reception module for receiving at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

a detection module for detecting said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, by means of said recognition elements stored in said storage space, by recognition in the content of said audiovisual programme received, of said extracted portion,

and a transmission module for transmitting action instructions in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme ~~programme~~), said instructions being designed so as to trigger at least one ~~action~~, action.

27. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said reception and recording modules for receiving and recording said recognition elements are designed so as respectively to receive and record also at least one timeout lag and in that the timeout module is designed to use said lag.

28. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the modules for receiving and recording recognition elements and the module for

~~transitting~~ transmitting action instructions are designed so as respectively to receive, record and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered.

29. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein each of said portions of content consists of at least one of the following portions: an image, an image part, a sound and any combination of at least two of said portions.

30. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one Boolean operator, said detection module being designed to detect at least two of said portions of content in conjunction with said boolean operator and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

31. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one time information item, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said time information item and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

32. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 31, wherein said time information item comprises at least one information item chosen from among a date of detection and a detection time slot.

33. (Currently amended) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module ~~being designed to detect~~ detecting said portions of content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in the case of ~~such deletion~~ said detecting.

34. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to directly receive

said extracted portion from among said recognition elements and the recording module is designed to record said extracted portion in the storage space.

35. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive from among said recognition elements, instructions for extracting said extracted portion in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the stream reception module, and said recording module is designed to extract directly said portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said portion in the storage space.

36. (Previously presented) Recognition unit according to Claim 26, wherein the reception module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive from among said recognition elements, at least one identifier of said extracted portion, and in that said detection module is capable of retrieving from the storage space said extracted portion previously recorded and associated with said identifier, so as to recognize in the content of said audiovisual programme received said extracted portion.

37. (Currently amended) Specification unit for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said specification unit comprises

a preparation module for preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme,

and a transmission module for transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, to at least one recognition unit intended to detect said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said specification unit preferably being capable of cooperating with said recognition unit.

38. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 37, wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered in case of detection of said synchronization signals.

39. (Previously presented) Specification unit according to Claim 38, wherein said action identifiers relate to at least one of the following actions: broadcasting of an interactive service, triggering of an interactive service, triggering of an update of an interactive service, triggering of a recording of said audiovisual programme and connection to a website.

40. (Currently amended) Activation Assembly assembly for activation by recognition of synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, the activation assembly comprising:

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of at least one

extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain said portion and recorded in a storage space,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, wherein at least one of said recognition and activation units is designed to delay the triggering of said action by at least a determined timeout lag, in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said recognition unit ~~preferably~~ being in accordance with Claim 26.

41. (Previously presented) Activation assembly according to Claim 40, wherein said activation assembly is designed to receive said timeout lag with said recognition elements.

42. (Currently amended) Synchronization system comprising:

a specification unit for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information,

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, in the audiovisual programme received,

and an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, the recognition unit and the activation unit forming an activation assembly,

wherein the specification unit is designed to prepare and transmit to the recognition unit recognition elements making it possible to obtain said extracted portion, as well as at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals, and in that the activation assembly is capable of delaying the triggering of said action according to said lag transmitted, in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

the specification unit ~~preferably~~ being in accordance with Claim 37 ~~and the activation assembly.~~

43. (Currently amended) Broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification ~~module~~ unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition ~~module~~ unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

44. (Currently amended) Services operator, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification ~~module~~ unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition ~~module~~ unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

45. (Currently amended) Terminal for receiving audiovisual programmes, wherein it comprises a device chosen from among at least a specification ~~module~~ unit in accordance with Claim 37, a recognition ~~module~~ unit, an activation assembly, and a synchronization system.

46. (Currently amended) Method of activation by recognition of synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, said method comprising the following steps:

reception of at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme,

detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted portion, in the content of said audiovisual programme

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme,

wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said recognition method ~~preferably~~ being implemented by means of an activation assembly.

47. (Currently amended) Method of specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme and thus to trigger at least one action,

wherein said method of specification comprises the following steps:

preparation of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme,

transmission of said ~~information~~ recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and transmission of at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme,

said specification method ~~preferably~~ being implemented by means of a specification unit.

48. (Currently amended) Synchronization method comprising the following steps:

a step of specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, in which recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme are specified for said detection,

a step of detecting said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, in which said synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognition of said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

and a step of triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals,

said synchronization method ~~preferably~~ being implemented by ~~the a~~ synchronization system of ~~Claim 17~~.

49. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 46, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said

recognition portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

50. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 47, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said recognition portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

51. (Previously presented) Method according to Claim 48, wherein said audiovisual programmes comprise at least one recognition part containing at least one of said recognition portions, and at least one live transmission intended to be broadcast following said recognition part, in such a way that said synchronization signals are detected during the broadcast of said recognition part and that said action is triggered during the broadcast of said following live transmission, by means of said timeout lag.

52. (Currently amended) ~~Computer programme product, wherein it comprises programme code instructions for executing the steps of one of the methods according to Claim 46 when said programme is executed on a computer~~ A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one transmitted stream carrying an audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information,

detecting synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received by means of recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted

portion of the content of said audiovisual programme and stored in a storage space, by recognition of said extracted portion, in the content of said audiovisual programme

and triggering of at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, wherein the step of triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals.

53. (Currently amended) ~~Computer programme product, wherein it comprises programme code instructions for executing the steps of one of the methods according to Claim 47 when said programme is executed on a computer~~ A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of content of an audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information,

transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, for detection of synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognition of said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme, and

transmitting at least one action timeout lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme.

54. (Currently amended) ~~Computer programme product, wherein it comprises programme code instructions for executing the steps of one of the methods according to Claim 48 when said programme is executed on a computer~~ A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program comprising the steps of:

specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be broadcast to users and control information, in which recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme are specified for detection,

detecting said synchronization signals in at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, in which synchronization signals are detected in said audiovisual programme received, by recognition of said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme,

triggering at least one action in case of detection of said synchronization signals, wherein the triggering of said action is delayed by at least one determined lag in case of detection of said synchronization signals.